

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for treating a disc pathology comprising:  
a retractor including an electrically and thermally non-conductive angulating tip, the retractor being configured to be inserted into a cannula and to retract a portion of a nerve.
2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the retractor further includes an anchoring spike which allows the retractor to be fixed to a posterior vertebral body or adjacent soft tissues and allows for hands free retraction.
3. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the retractor is expandable.